

ASSESSMENT

Frequently Asked Questions

What is PARCC?

Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Will the new assessment program incorporate primary grades (k-2)?

The PARCC consortium will develop optional performance tasks to assess literacy and mathematics knowledge and skills in kindergarten through second grade.

What grade levels (subjects) will be assessed by the new PARCC?

The subjects of the new assessment will align with the new ELA and math standards (common core)

Will the states have the same assessments or comparable?

There are 26 states who are members of the consortium. PARCC states will adopt a common set of performance standards and scoring rubrics so results will be comparable across states.

Will PARCC have the same assessment categories (AW, below, meets, exceeds)?

The details of the assessment categories are not yet available.

Will the new assessment be a year end test or given at various times during the year?

Students will take parts of the assessment at key times during the school year, closer to when they learn the material. The Partnership's assessment system will include several *through-course assessments* in each grade, which will be combined with more streamlined end-of-year tests to produce a more complete picture of student performance. These assessments will measure student learning closer to the time when classroom instruction takes place and will give feedback throughout the year, allowing educators to adjust instructional practices or give extra support to students who need it.

If you had to list the 21st century skills that the Common Core address, what would 3 to 4 of them be?

The 21st Century skills are integrated throughout the common core. For further overview information about 21st Century skills visit www.p21.org.

How will the new assessments be administered?

Assessments for grades 6-11 will be administered via computer while 3-5 will be administered via paper and pencil (in the short term).

Will the assessment be multiple choice only or will there be open response and essay items as well?

The assessment system will include a mix of constructed response items, performance tasks, and computer-enhanced, computer-scored items.

What does *Through-Course Assessment* mean?

Four tests per year would be given at the following points:

- At the 20-25% of instruction
- At the 50% point of instruction
- At the 70% point of instruction
- At the 90% point of instruction

Will the consortium develop a common assessment?

Some states may choose to augment, but there will be a common assessment. There will have to be multiple forms developed.

When will assessments officially begin?

The proposed starting date is fall of 2014.

Who will be developing the CCSS assessments?

Items will be developed by test-development companies and participating states will send content teams to participate in a review process.

Will writing be assessed as a part of the CCSS assessments?

There will be student constructed responses for ELA and math. There is not a plan to have a separate writing assessment.

ISBE has done pilot testing in past years prior to the actual official test. Will this occur again? Will 2013 be pilot year with no ISAT/PSAE but a pilot CCSS assessment?

There will be pilot testing of items in the participating states prior to the administration of the operational assessment.

What is the format for the assessments? We hear that they will be completed online, but wonder about the feasibility of that with many districts that lack the technology to implement such a task.

The proposed plan has students in grades 6-11 taking the assessment online. Grades 3-5 is proposed to be paper and pencil, with the hope they can all be move to online in the future. The agency is conducting a review of districts within the state, and their ability to administer the assessment online.

Will the turnaround time from the assessments be quicker?

Yes

How often will the assessments be completed? We have heard of benchmark assessments three to four times per year.

The proposed plan calls for three interim assessments and a summative assessment.

Will all students take the CCSS assessment or will special education and LEP students be exempt or take a modified but similar test?

All students will take the assessment that is aligned to the common core; there will be modifications for special education and LEP students.

For more information regarding PARCC, visit www.isbe.net/common_core/htmls/parcc.htm

Resource:

Coming Together to Raise Achievement is a document prepared by the Center for K-12 Assessment & Performance Management at ETS. It provides an overview of the work taking place nationally with regard to the new assessments.

http://www.k12center.org/rsc/pdf/Assessments_for_the_Common_Core_Standards.pdf